Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

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R 191315Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7535
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CONFIDENTIAL BLANTYRE 1522

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, SF, RH, MI

SUBJ: VORSTER VISIT WITH PRESIDENT BANDA

1. AT PRESIDENT BANDA'S REQUEST I MET WITH HIM THIS MORNING. HE SAID REASON WANTED TO SEE ME WAS "TO PASS MESSAGE" TO MR. EASUM TO CONFIRM "AS PROMISED" THAT VORSTER HAD MET WITH HIM FOR 3 AND ONE-HALF HOURS YESTERDAY -- "THAT IS ALL." I TRIED TO DRAW HIM OUT AS TO RESULTS OR IMPRESSIONS BUT HE WAS VERY NONCOMMITTAL. ASKED HIM IF HE IS MORE OPTIMISTIC NOW ABOUT CHANCES FOR RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT BUT HE ONLY LAUGHED AND SHOOK HIS HEAD. I TOLD HIM WE ARE DISCOURAGED OVER LACK OF PROGRESS IN S.A. IN RACIAL FIELD AND HE QUICKLY TURNED TO HIS USUAL THEME RE IF YOU COULD HAVE SEEN IT AND EXPERIENCED IT AS I DID IN THE 30'S YOU WOULD SEE THAT GREAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN S.A. NEVERTHELESS, WE SHOULD ALL "KEEP TALKING." HE SAID, "LOOK AT CONDITIONS IN YOUR OWN SOUTH IN THE 30'S -- WHILE A STUDENT IN NASHIVILLE I SAW A FISK STUDENT TAKEN BY A MOB AND LYNCHED -- CONDITIONS IN S.A. THEN WERE EVEN WORSE THAN THAT."

2. HOPING TO GET MORE FROM HIM RE RHODESIA I DESCRIBED MY RECENT CONVERSATION WITH MAYOR OF SALISBURY. HE SAID GLAD TO KNOW THAT THESE ELEMENTS EXIST IN RHODESIA BUT UNFORTUNATELY SMITH AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FARMERS HAVE THE POWER. THEREFORE, HE IS DEALING WITH SMITH AND

HE WOULD "TELL ME IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCA THAT THREE POWERFUL RHODESIAN FARM LEADERS ARE COMING TO TALK WITH HIM IN A FEW DAYS -- THAT IS ALL."

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH HE TOLD ME LITTLE THE PRESIDENT WAS IN HIGH GOOD HUMOR SO VORSTER VISIT MUST HAVE GONE REASONABLY WELL. IT MAY, OF COURSE, HAVE RESULTED IN VERY FAVORABLE S.A. ACTIONS RE MALAWI LABOR IN S.A. AND FURTHER OFFERS OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS HEARD RUMOR OF S.A. OFFER TO DO A COMPLETE MINERALSSURVEY OF NORTHERN MALAWI AND BANDA ANNOUNCED LAST FRIDAY AT CLOSING OF PARLIAMENT THAT S.A. WILL FINANCE RAILWAY EXTENSION FROM LILONGWE TO ZAMBIAN BORDER. BANDA DID NOT SEEM TO MIND MY FISHING BUT HE IS PLAYING HIS CURRENT GAME VERY CLOSE TO HIS CHEST. STEVENSON

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